

Serial No. 09/147,405

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 31 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer with respect to the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend the below claims as follows:

33
I5 1. (Six times amended) A purified *Staphylococcus epidermidis* protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or a polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.

No claim

8. (Twice amended) Recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 2,
wherein said DNA molecule contains SEQ ID NO:12 which is:

I
1 TCTAGTGTGAAGAAAAGAATGATGTGATCAATAATAATCAGTCATAAAA
51 CACCGACGATAATAACCAAATAATTAAAAAGAAGAAACGAATAACTACG
101 ATGGCATAGAAAAACGCTCAGAAGATAGAACAGAGTCACACAACAAATGTA
151 GATGAAAACGAAGCAACATTTACAAAAGACCCCTCAAGATAATACTCA
201 TCTTACAGAAGAAGAGGTAAGAATCCTCATCAGTCGAATCCTCAAATT
251 CATCAATTGATACTGCCAACAACCATCTCACACAACAATAATAGAGAA
301 GAATCTGTTCAAACAAGTGATAATGTAGAAGATTACACGTATCAGATT
351 TGCTAACTCTAAAATAAAAGAGAGTAACACTGAATCTGGTAAAGAAGAGA
401 ATACTATAGAGCAACCTAATAAAGTAAAAGAAGATTCAACAAACAAGTCAG
451 CCGTCTGGCTATACAAATATAGATGAAAAAATTCAAATCAAGATGAGTT
501 ATTAAATTACCAATAATGAAATATGAAAATAAGGCTAGACCATTATCTA
551 CAACATCTGCCAACCATCGATTAAACGTGTAACCGTAAATCAATTAGCG
601 CGGGAACAAGGTTCGAATGTTAACCATTTAATTAAAGTTACTGATCAAAG
651 TATTACTGAAGGATATGATGATAGTGAAAGGTGTTATTAAAGCACATGATG
701 CTGAAAACCTTAATCTATGATGTAACCTTGAGTAGATGATAAGGTGAAA
751 TCTGGTGTACGATGACAGTGGATATAGATAAGAATACAGTCCATCAGA
801 TTTAACCGATAGCTTACAATACCAAAAATAAAAGATAATTCTGGAGAAA
851 TCATCGCTACAGGTACTTATGATAACACAAAATAACAAATCACCTATACT
901 TTTACAGATTATGATGATAAGTATGAAAATATTAAGCACACCTTAAATT
951 AACGTCATACATTGATAAAATCAAAGGTTCAAATAATAACCAAGTTAG
1001 ATGTAGAATATAAAACGGCCCTTCATCAGTAAATAAAACAATTACGGTT
1051 GAATATCAAAGACCTAACGAAAATCGGACTGCTAACCTCAAAGTATGTT
1101 TACAAATATAGATACGAAAATCATACAGTTGAGCAAACGATTATATTAA
1151 ACCCTCTCGTTATTCAAGCCAAGGAAACAAATGTAATATTTCAGGGAAT
1201 GGTGATGAAGGTTCAACAATTATAGACGATAGCACAATAATTAAAGTTA
1251 TAAGGTTGGAGATAATCAAATTACAGATAGTAACAGAAATTATGATT
1301 ACAGTGAATATGAAAGATGTCACAAATGATGATTACGCCAATTAGGAAAT
1351 ATAATGATGTGAATATTAATTGGTAATATAGATTACCCATATATTAT
1401 TAAAGTTATTAGTAAATATGACCCCTAATAAGGATGATTACCGACTATAC
1451 AGCAAACGTGACAATGCAGACGACTATAAATGAGTATACTGGTGAGTT
1501 AGAACAGCATCCTATGATAATACAATTGCTTCTACAAGTTCAAGGTCA
1551 AGGACAAGGTGACTTGCCTCTGAAAAAACTTATAAAATCGGAGATTACG
1601 TATGGGAAGATGTAGATAAGATGGTATTCAAAATACAAATGATAATGAA
1651 AAACCGCTTAGTAATGTATTGGTAAGTTGACGTATCCTGATGGAACCTTC
1701 AAAATCAGTCAGAACAGATGAAGATGGGAAATATCAATTGATGGA

or homologues thereof.

9. (Twice amended) Recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 2, wherein said DNA molecule encodes amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 which is:

IS
1 SSDEEKNDVINNNQSINTDDNNQIICKKEET
31 NNYDGIEKRSEDRTESTTNVDENEATFLQK
61 TPQDNTHLTEEEVKESSSVESSNNSIDTAQ
91 QPSHTTINREESVQTSDNVEDSHVSDFANS
121 KIKESNTESGKEENTIEQPNKVKEDESTTSQ
151 PSGYTNIDEKISNQDELLNLPINEYENKAR
181 PLSTTSAQPSIKRVTVNQLAAEQGSNVNHL
211 IKVTDQSITEGYDDSEGVVIKAHDAENLIYD
241 VTFEVDDKVKSGDTMTVDIDKNTVPSDLTD
271 SFTIPKIKDNSGEIIATGTYDNKNKQITYT
301 FTDYVDKYENIKAHLKLTSYIDKS SKVPNNN
331 TKLDVEYKTALSSVNKTITVEYQRPNENRT
361 ANLQSMFTNIDTKNHTVEQTIVINPLRYSA
391 KETNVNISGNGDEGSTIIDDSTIICKVYKVG
421 DNQNLPDSNRIYDYSEYEDVTNDDYAQLGN
451 NNDVNINFGNIDSPYIICKVISKYDPNKDDY
481 TTIQQTVTMQTTINEYTGEFRAS YDNTIA
511 FSTSSGQQGQGDLPPEKTYKIGDYVWEDVDK
541 DGIQNTNDNEKPLSNVLVTLTYPDGT SKSV
571 RTDEDGKYQFDG

I3
I6

25. (Four times amended) A vaccine composition including the protein or polypeptide according to claim 1.

I3
I1

30. (Amended) A fusion protein comprising the protein or polypeptide according to claim 1.